



Faith Alive

Bruce Wilder, Senior Pastor ◇ **Mike Easton**, Pastor ◇ **David Breidenbach**, Pastor
Sunday Worship Services ◇ 8:00 am ◇ 9:30 am ◇ 11:00 am

Annual Congregational Meeting **February 4, 9:30 – 10:45 am**

Ron Iman, Council President



Best wishes for a joyous new year to all of Faith's members and friends. As we begin this new year, we have much to be thankful for. As members of Faith, we are blessed to have great ministries, music, pastors, staff, facilities, and a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere. These factors helped Faith add 210 new members in 2006. These new members come from all types of backgrounds: Lutheran, other denominations, and those who previously have not had a church home. Regardless of their backgrounds, Faith's commitment to remain true to the Word of the Lord was a key component in their decision to become members of Faith.

This growth in membership is consistent with Faith's mission "To lead others to Christ, incorporating them into the life of the Church, and equipping one another for effective Christian living." This mission is the centerpiece of decision making for your Church Council.

Our ability to carry out our mission is directly tied to the budget approved at the annual meeting. Last year, only 152 *individuals* attended the annual meeting to vote on our budget. Unfortunately, such low attendance is commonplace. Those attending last year's meeting likely represented 75 to 100 of Faith's 1015 households. As a result, a budget is approved by a small percentage of the membership (less than 10%), which means that the congregation as a whole may not be willing to make a *commitment* to support it. This has caused the Council to re-think the way we do budgeting (see the accompanying statistical summary of giving for 2006). More than one budget proposal will be presented at the annual meeting and members will be asked to vote for the one that they are willing to support.

Congregational Meeting



The annual congregational meeting will be held on February 4 from 9:30 to 10:45 am. This time has been selected to maximize attendance at this important meeting. There will be only two services that day, 8:00 am and 11:00 am. If you normally attend services at 9:30, you are urged to make

! This is a very important meeting and your attendance is needed to show your support for the future direction of Faith's ministry.

Thank You

☐ Dear Members of Faith:

Your recent gift makes our medical and dental missions to Guatemala possible. In 2007, we will send 16 surgical teams and 9 village teams to Guatemala.

We continue to thank God for people like you; your generous and caring heart makes a difference in many lives.

Sincerely,

Vera Wiatt, Exec. Dir., Faith in Practice

☐ Dear Pastor Mike & Mary:

Thank you for being there to support the people of Albuquerque who deal with chronic illness every day. You are so appreciated.

(In appreciation for assistance to one of her patients.)

Agatha M. Allen, Dialysis Social Worker
New Mexico Artificial Kidney Center

☐ Dear Pastoral Staff:

We, the members of the Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild, wish to thank you for your years of hospitality. By offering your meeting room for our monthly meetings, you have given us a home. One where we could share ideas, inspiration, knowledge, and best of all, friendship. We thank you for providing us that space to be together. As you are most likely aware, we will be moving into our new home in January. We will miss you, but know that you have our heartfelt appreciation.

Bright Blessings,
Las Arañas Guild Members

Member Updates

Baptism:

✠ Mia Elizabeth Puccini, daughter of Abigail and Victor, was baptized on December 10.

✠ Julia Clare Curry, daughter of Sean and Heidi Curry, was baptized on December 24.

Attendance	8:00	9:30	11:00	Total
Sunday, Dec 3	151	495	172	818
Sunday School, December 3				165
Wednesday Night Ministries, December 6				170
Sunday, Dec 10	195	590	153	938
Christmas Musical, Dec 10 - 9:30 only (youth)				65
Adult Sunday School, December 10				40
Wednesday Night Ministries, December 13				158
Sunday, Dec 17	197	403	185	785
Sunday School, December 17				94
Wednesday Night Ministries, Dec. 20 (cancelled)				n/a
Sunday, Dec 24 - 9:30 am only				541
Sunday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve (4 services)				1,677
Sunday, Dec 31	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

New Piano Needed

The choir room piano has served us faithfully for the last 21 years as different musical groups rehearse with it weekly. However, this piano is worn out. A new piano that costs \$3,500 will meet our essential needs; of course, a better quality piano is always welcome. If the spirit moves you, and you are able to help us buy a piano for the choir room, please send a check payable to Faith Lutheran, stating "memorial - piano" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Bielejec at hbielejec@faithabq.org



Believe

One of our very own youth has committed to helping our church get transportation for the Youth Department in a very special way!



Sydney Schneider has recorded a CD entitled "Believe" at no expense to our church. All monies collected will be donated toward purchasing a safe vehicle for transporting FLC Youth to events, camps, and retreats. This is your opportunity to have some great

music... and contribute to a much needed and worthy cause. Please stop by the table in the Centrum each Sunday for a list of songs included and purchase a few CD's for a suggested donation of \$10 each.

Youthquake

Another exciting Youthquake event is quickly approaching. We are thrilled to be taking many of our middle school youth this year for a fun-filled weekend of learning and fellowship with other Christians from around the southwest. This event is held at a hotel in Denver, **March 2-4, 2007**. The total cost including transportation and food will be \$200. In order to attend this event, you must sign up and pay at the Information Center no later than January 14, 2007. If you have any questions, please call Dawn Selberg at 296-0762 or contact by e-mail at dselberg@faithabq.org.



Statistical Summary of Membership Giving for 2006

Ron Iman, Council President

Giving totals for 2006 show that Faith finished the year with a deficit of \$135,163 relative to budget (giving covered only 91.2% of the budget approved by the membership for 2006). Figure 1 provides a graph of percentage giving by dollar amount for all 1015 FLC households. An additional 3.9% of giving not shown in Figure 1 is in the form of loose offerings that come in throughout the year, which cannot be credited to specific members. Loose offerings also include checks received from visitors. The graph in Figure 1 shows that 25.7% or 261 out of 1015 households have no record of giving, which means that we have a record of giving for only 754 of our households. The first four bars in Figure 1 represent 52.8% of Faith's households (536 of 1015). This group only accounts for 3.4% of our giving. The first five bars in Figure 1 represent 64.9% of Faith's households. This larger group accounts for only 9.4% of our giving. Stated in perhaps simpler terms, roughly two-thirds of our households give only 9.4% of the total while one-third account for 86.8% with the remaining 3.9% being loose offerings. Figure 2 shows these household percentages in a pictorial format.

Percent of Annual Giving by Dollar Amount for 2006

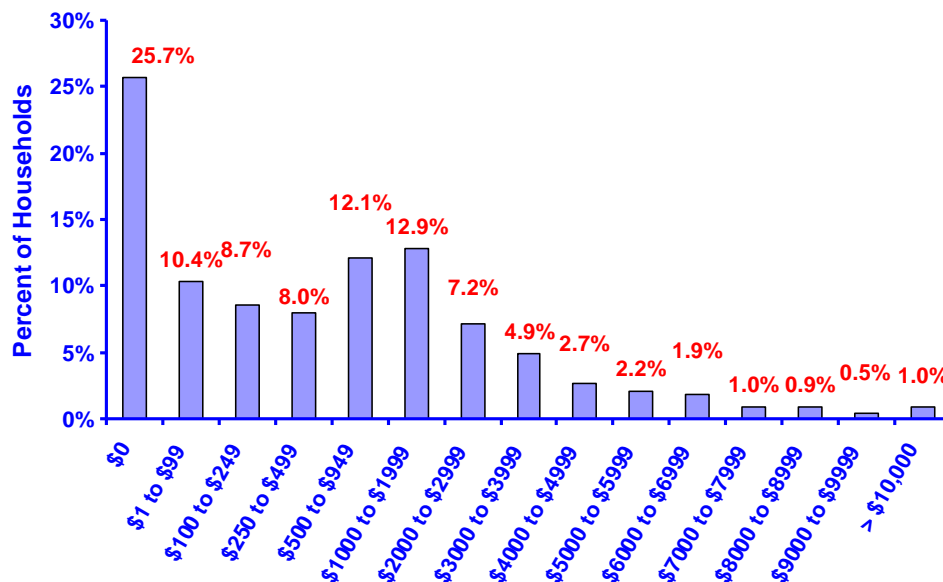


Figure 1. Distribution of Annual Giving for all 1015 FLC Households for 2006

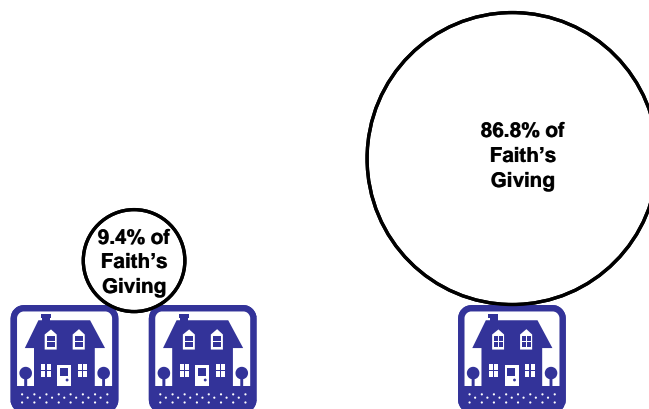


Figure 2. Approximately Two-Thirds of FLC Households Account for Only 9.4% of Giving while Approximately One-Third Accounts for 86.8% of Giving

Statistical Summary for 2006

Table 1. Distribution of Giving for 356 of Faith's 1015 Households

Amount of Yearly Giving	Number of Households	Percent of Households	Average Yearly Gift	Total Yearly Giving	Percent of All Giving
\$1000 to \$1999	131	12.9%	\$ 1,386	\$ 181,549	12.7%
\$2000 to \$2999	73	7.2%	\$ 2,454	\$ 179,121	12.5%
\$3000 to \$3999	50	4.9%	\$ 3,487	\$ 174,367	12.2%
\$4000 to \$4999	27	2.7%	\$ 4,397	\$ 118,724	8.3%
\$5000 to \$5999	22	2.2%	\$ 5,356	\$ 117,832	8.2%
\$6000 to \$6999	19	1.9%	\$ 6,442	\$ 122,401	8.5%
\$7000 to \$7999	10	1.0%	\$ 7,592	\$ 75,920	5.3%
\$8000 to \$8999	9	0.9%	\$ 8,306	\$ 74,757	5.2%
\$9000 to \$9999	5	0.5%	\$ 9,590	\$ 47,950	3.3%
> \$10,000	10	1.0%	\$15,098	\$ 150,980	10.5%
	356	35.1%	\$ 3,493	\$1,243,602	86.8%

Table 1 provides a breakout of the dollar amounts given by the households that represent the 86.8% in Figure 2 (or the last 10 bars in Figure 1). The third column in Table 1 repeats the percentage of households from Figure 1 while the last column shows the percentage of each group's total amount of giving relative to all 1015 Faith households. Thus, the 131 households giving \$1000 to \$1999 account for 12.7% of the giving among all 1015 households while the 10 households whose giving is greater than \$10,000 account for 10.5%.

Hopefully, members of Faith will give this statistical summary prayerful consideration before we approve a budget for 2007 at the annual meeting. It is clear that as long as we are faced with deficit giving relative to the approved budget, planned programs will have to be eliminated and we will have to find ways to be even more frugal. Some may wonder how the 2006 budget \$1,528,785 could be considered frugal. Perhaps the following brief overview of just a few fixed expenses will help in understanding the cost of basic church operations. Each year the church spends \$30,000 on electricity, \$14,000 on gas, \$4000 on water, \$14,000 on telephones; \$14,000 on insurance, \$15,000 on printing supplies, \$7000 on postage, \$11,500 on routine maintenance, \$286,000 on mortgage payments, \$61,000 for recurring services such as cleaning, heating and cooling maintenance, security patrol, etc. While these numbers total \$456,500, they just scratch the surface of the many routine expenses and they *do not include staff salaries*. Every other Thursday, I make a trip to the church to sign 50 or so checks to pay for these and other expenses. I know that this experience certainly helped me to get a grasp on the required expenses for a large facility just to maintain the status quo.

Some may be surprised by the amount of the electric and gas bills. Consider that Faith has approximately 54,000 square feet of heated space. That is the equivalent of 27 homes each having 2000 square feet. Moreover, it would be a very unusual home with ceilings as high as the ones in the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Centrum or the wide hallways that we have throughout the church. If these comparisons were made on cubic feet rather than square feet, the number of equivalent homes would escalate. In addition, we have a huge outdoor parking lot to light as well as all the other outside security lighting. The electric and gas bills work out to an average of \$139 per month for 27 homes, which seems very reasonable.

At this point, some reading this article may be thinking: "Well, the problem is pretty obvious. We have to get the zero givers to start donating." I think that we would all agree that non-givers are certainly a concern, but unfortunately it is one that is very common among churches. It is very typical to see 30% of church members not have a record of giving. Moreover, nothing we have tried over the years has significantly improved this percentage. We all need to prayerfully consider our giving relative to our commitment to the budget that will be voted on at the annual meeting on February 4.

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 3:11

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be

Women's Retreat ~ February 17 & 18, 2007



Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well and changed her life forever. There's no time to waste: Make your plans to get away from it all and "meet Jesus at the well." On this retreat, FLC women will enjoy spiritual refreshment, fun and fellowship right here in town at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown. Ladies, pick up your registration form at the Information Center as soon as possible, or call Kirsten Wilder at the church office, 296-0762. The **January 26** registration deadline is just around the corner!

Women's Brunch

The Women's Brunch is Saturday, **January 20**. Call Margo Schwenke at 856-1456.

Women's Book Club

The new year has started and we invite all women with a passion for reading to join us at 7:00 pm in the Cry Room the second Tuesday of the month. Mark your calendars!

Our next two book selections are:

January 16 - "The Illuminator" by Brenda Rickman Vantrease

February 20 - "Looking for Lost Bird" by Yvette Melanson

We're always open to new members.

Questions? Please call Nancy Gwyn at 296-3190 (h) or 346-4673 (w).

WOW (Widows of Wisdom)

The WOW potluck is Saturday, **January 13**, at 4:00 pm in the Café and Library at the church. Hostess is Marcia Jacobs. If you are coming, call to let us know: Marcia Jacobs 323-2278, LaDonna Adolf 797-0401, or Diane Boade 299-5743.

Sharing Christmas Joy & Shoeboxes



Members of Faith were overwhelmingly generous this year. There were enough toys for the students of the Baca/Dio'a yazhi Community School

and for the Albuquerque Rescue Mission. Because of the weather forecast, we fortunately elected to deliver to the Baca/Dio'a yazhi Community School on Friday, December 15. The toys collected on Sunday, December 17, were delivered to Albuquerque Rescue Mission. Each agency received a large van full of toys. May God bless you in this New Year.

The Mission & Service Ministry Team also wish to thank those who provided gifts to children around the world through the Operation Christmas Shoebox ministry by Samaritan Purse. Faith provided 175 shoeboxes of the 21,000 given by New Mexico. Thank you, and Merry Christmas.

The Mission & Service Ministry Team

Donate Blood ~ Be a Hero!

Mark your calendar to donate on these following Sundays:

February 25
April 29
July 8

September 9
November 4
December 30

You can make an appointment by entering your zip code on the web site at www.bloodhero.com. Sign up now for our first blood drive in 2007. Will you be a hero?



Jesus Fed the 5,000...

Are you aware that The Storehouse provides over **two million meals a year** to the



Albuquerque area? Faith Lutheran's role is to furnish the "fish!" Faith is the largest church asked to supply canned tuna for the Storehouse pantry. When you grocery shop, please remember to buy a few extra cans of tuna as our contribution to Albuquerque's hungry community. Jesus continues to reach out to His people today... through our hands and hearts!

Adult Ministry



These military personnel are family and friends for whom you wish prayers. Please call the church office to add (x) or delete names.

Those in military service are:

James Beakley	Ben Dufay	Chris Hinnerichs	Brian Peters
Andrew Brabson	Ryan Fenn	Michael Holtzclaw	Charles Schneider
John Cawthorne x	Linda Field	Chap. Rick Koch	Gregg Silva
Tyler Donnell	Tabitha Golden	Adam Lawrence	Jerry Simmons
Chris Donnelly x	Jonathan Hamilton	Dennis G. Long	James Zurzolo
August Dudley	James Hansen	Mort Packer	





January 14

Kathryn Balko,
Roger
Bumstead,
James
Campbell,

De'mone Curry, Robert Gherardi,
Joaquin McDougall, Thomas
Schmeckpeper, William Went

15 None

16 Amy Gara, Peggy Kelly, Derek
Limke, Jacqueline Oswald, Sandra
Ricci

17 Adam Herrera, Brendan Lewis,
Brian Liwski

18 Gregory Archuleta, Darrell
Munson

19 Savannah Bradley, Amanda
Burnell, Rev. Mike Easton, Bailey
Garretson, Matthew Gwyn, Brandon
Heckler, Renee Jensrud, Matthew
Sena

20 Bill Emrich, Shannon Jenkins,
Alexandra Phelps, Jeffrey Sell, Jr.

21 Bette Fields, Grete Gaschler, Jon
Grant, Erin Hedemann, Monet Supple,
Mary Walker

22 Harry Asmussen, Lynne Benson

23 Everett Dix, Elise Orell, Susan
Puls, Cory Schultz, Noelle Wiener,
David Zwilling

24 Dennis Bonfantine, Daniel
Garmus, Nissa Thomas

25 Joyce Bauer, Diane Boade,
Cynthia Boldt, Anita DeAngelis, Nancy
Giblin, Donald Meisinger, Nathaniel
Smith, Dallas Wiener

26 Merissa Ekman, Croix Gilliland,
Wilma Keiser, Kyle Ruggles, Henry
Schneider

27 John Bigelow, Katie Bleffert, Lisa
Platzbecker, David Rowe, Sandy
Streit

Prayer Chain

Volunteers for this ministry
respond to all prayer requests by
praying for the names they
receive. All names are confidential
unless you request the name be
published in the "Prayer Needs"
list each Sunday.

CONTACTS:

JoAnne Abbott ~ 298-2039
Barbara Peterson ~ 898-6093
or the church office ~ 296-0762

The deadline to submit articles for
the next Faith Alive is:
8:00 am ~ Monday, January 15, 2007

H2H Calendar (Head to the Heart) ~ Confirmation

January 17..."Kingdom Come" Theme Night
January 24..."Will Be Done" Theme Night
February 7..."Daily Bread" Theme Night
February 14...Fondue Party & Games
February 21...NO H2H (Ash Wednesday)
February 28..."Forgive Us" Theme Night



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